

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /082 W

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R 130740 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 757

INFO CNO WASHDC

USNAVCOMSTA HAROLD E HOLT

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2160

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: GOA REQUESTS ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS
AT NORTHWEST CAPE STATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS DIRECT RESULT OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLE STATING
NORTHWEST CAPE STATION DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN MINING OF NORTH
VIETNAMESE HARBORS LAST YEAR, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REQUESTS USG RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS GIVEN BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. AS DIRECT RESULT OF NEWSPAPER REPORT FILED BY FRANK CRANSTON
IN CANBERRA TIMES APRIL 12, GOA REQUESTS USG ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
GIVEN BELOW ABOUT CAPABILITIES OF NORTHWEST CAPE STATION. CRANSTON
WAS ONE OF THREE JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED DEFENSE MINISTER
BARNARD TO NORTHWEST CAPE STATION WEEKEND OF APRIL 7. HIS STORY
STATES THAT STATION WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN U. S. MINING OF HAIPHONG
AND OTHER NORTH VIETNAMESE HARBORS LAST YEAR AND QUOTES " U. S.
OFFICIAL" INVOLVED WITH STATION AS SOURCE.

3. BLAKENEY, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE LIAISON BRANCH,
DFA, NOTED TO DCM THAT THERE APPEARED LITTLE NEED FOR HIM TO
EXPRESS CAUTION ON ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF NORTHWEST CAPE
STATION OR U. S. FACILITIES IN AUSTRALIA ANY TIME BEFORE JULY,
I. E. DATE OF ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT
ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS HE IS RAISING APPEAR TO HAVE PRIMARILY MILITARY
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SIGNIFICANCE, THEY ARE BEING GIVEN TO EMBASSY BECAUSE OF THEIR
BROADER POLITICAL IMPORTANCE.

4. QUESTIONS TO WHICH GOA WISHES USG RESPONSE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- A) THE EXTENT TO WHICH NORTHWEST CAPE WAS PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED
IN OPERATIONS IN INDO- CHINA.
- B) THE EXTENT OF ITS PRESENT INVOLVEMENT.
- C) WHETHER THE STATION IS LIKELY TO BE USED IN THE EVENTUALITY
OF A RESUMPTION OF BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM.
- D) WHETHER IT IS USED IN RELATION TO OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS SUGGESTED ARE:

- A) TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE U. S. NAVY CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN COMBAT
OPERATIONS IN INDO- CHINA.
- B) IS THE NORTHWEST CAPE STATION USED IN RELATION TO SUCH
OPERATIONS.
- C) WHETHER IT IS USED TO COMMUNICATE WITH MACTHAL.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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